GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
PROMOTION OF HINDI
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassies neither use Hindi in their official work nor have employed an official or officer for this purpose and do not have any facility therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Embassies do not correspond even with the people of Indian origin in official language and do not extend any cooperation in the publications of the official language committees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry is not aware of its responsibility of use and propagation of official language Hindi; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to ensure use of Hindi in the Embassies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

a) & b) The Indian Missions and Posts abroadprimarily deal with foreign countries and officials. The Missions/Posts aremaking all efforts on a continuing basis to do their official work in Hindi. The Hindi posts exist in the following six Missions:-

a) One post each of Second Secretary (Hindi) in HCI, Port Louis, HCI Suva and HCI Port of Spain.

b) One post each of Attache (Hindi & Culture) in Embassy of India, Kathmandu, HCI, London and HCI Paramaribo.

c) One post of Hindi Translator in Embassy of India, Kathmandu

c) & d) Interactions by the Indian Embassies abroad with the Indian community, including during the National Day Celebrations and Sadbhawna Diwas are done normally in Hindi.Replies to all the letters received in Hindi from all quarters including people of Indian origin are sent in Hindi only. Indian Missions/Posts abroad extend full support and cooperation to the voluntary Hindi Organisations/Institutions engaged in the promotion and propagation of Hindi.

e) & f) Ministry is fully aware of its responsibility of implementation of Official Language Hindi in Indian Missions/Posts abroad.It has a well formulated scheme of promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad including dissemination of Hindi literature comprising books in Hindi on various subjects such as Indian culture, Art, Literature, Language, History, Philosophy to Indian Missions for building Hindi libraries as also for donating to educational institutions, voluntary organisations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi. Hindi teaching material including text books, dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, Computer Hindi software, CD Rom etc. are also being sent to the Indian Missions.The Missions on their part keep close contact with Local Indian Community and voluntary Hindi Organisations and fulfil their Hindi language related requirements.Some Indian Missions abroad run Hindi classes to teach Hindi to the children of the employees posted there. They also coordinate the work relating to selection of foreign students for studying Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.Hindi Professors and Lecturers are also deputed abroad through ICCR.Some of our Missions abroad have been organising Hindi conferences, literary events, Hindi Essay competitions etc. to promote Hindi in the countries of their accreditation. Liberal financial assistance is given to the voluntary organisations engaged in the promotion and propagation of Hindi.. Indian Missions/Posts abroad keep close contact with the electronic media in the countries of their accreditation.They extend full support to them by supplying Indian Documentaries, Feature Films and Serials for telecast on their TV ChannelsMinistry as well as our Missions abroad are making every effort for the promotion and propagation of Hindi.